

## THE WAR.

## Highly Important from Washington.

## First Fight with the Rebels.

## The Battery at Sewall's Point, in Hampton Roads, Bombarded by the United States Ships Star and Freeborn.

## THE FIRE RETURNED.

## The Troops at Harper's Ferry Taking up a Position in Maryland, near Hagerstown.

## IMPORTANT FROM KEY WEST.

## The Gulf Squadron Taking Prizes and Sending Them North.

## General Orders of Col. Ruggles to the Virginia Troops.

## The Soldiers Being Called Out to Defend their Homes.

## Important Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs at Montgomery on Davis' Message.

## Position of Cairo, its Garrison and Batteries.

## Death of Col. Voshurg, of the Seventy-first Regiment, at Washington.

## GENERAL BUTLER EN ROUTE FOR FORT MONROE.

General Butler left here at half past two o'clock this afternoon for Annapolis. He will leave that city tomorrow for next day for his new field of operations, making Fort Monroe his headquarters for the Department of Virginia. General Butler is accompanied by his brother, Colonel A. J. Butler, two of his aides, Captain Hagarty and Pay, and Mr. Wm. Green, private secretary to the General.

All the Massachusetts troops, except the Fifth regiment, now in the Treasury Building, will accompany General Butler to Fort Monroe, and the Fifth will proceed to join the command of General Butler at the expiration of twenty days.

General Mansfield, who commands this department, dislikes to have the Massachusetts boys, who have done so well, and given so much satisfaction on account of their gentlemanly conduct and great care of the building, removed to give place to strangers. It is an important post, and Secretary Chase pays Massachusetts the compliment to say that he would rather have troops should guard the Treasury which he has done so much to replenish, than those of any other State.

Major General Butler has decided to appoint upon his new staff Captain R. S. Fay, of Boston, who has achieved so many successes of late on his late staff, and his nephew, Lieutenant George H. Butler, of California, and recently attached to the regular service. Most if not all of the other members of the staff will be experienced officers of the regular army. Mr. Fay, being selected from civil life, will be General Butler's military secretary. Lieutenant G. H. Butler was one of Colonel Lander's exploring and wagon road party, and has proved himself a gallant young man.

Lieutenant Colonel Green, of the Fifth Massachusetts regiment, has obtained leave of absence for seven days, and leaves forthwith for Massachusetts.

A protest, couched in very severe language, has been received at the War Department against accepting Colonel Sherman's New York regiment. General Butler says he does not wish to hear of the protest, but he will be guided by the War Department.

Col. Voshurg, of the Seventy-first regiment, died at his headquarters at the Navy Yard at half past eight o'clock this morning. Col. V. has occupied an arduous and highly responsible post of duty since his command arrived here, and being in delicate health it proved too much for his frail constitution.

Poor Voshurg may be considered the victim of his patriotic ardor. His health was too feeble to encounter the constant fatigue of his duties. On Friday he was on his feet the whole day, and a severe hemorrhage prostrated him at night. Contrary to the orders of Dr. Nugent, physician to the regiment, he resumed his work as usual on Saturday, and even mounted on horseback. He was forced to take to his bed on Saturday afternoon, and grew steadily worse. On Sunday he was quite delirious, and his mind seemed wholly engrossed with the care of his command, as he was constantly giving directions and orders. He had frequent attacks of bleeding at the lungs during Sunday, but this morning he fancied he was growing better, and whilst the doctor was at his bedside, he ordered his attendants to take him from his bed and place him upright on a chair. As he was raised up he fainted from weakness, and in a few moments more he was dead.

This sudden and melancholy event has cast the deepest gloom over his regiment and the wide circle of friends who knew him. He was exceedingly respected and beloved. His death was so unexpected that it is hard to realize it. Only on Friday he entertained his old friend, General Stikles, and passed several hours in a tour of inspection over the Navy Yard, where he had been pointing out the arrangements he had made for the coming of his regiment. He exhibited on this occasion a very beautiful home, he had just bought, for which General Stikles offered him double the price. "No, old fellow," he said playfully, "You can't have him till he is knickered over; then you are welcome to him."

He was in apparent health and high spirits as he spoke, and in a little over forty-eight hours he was as none then dreamt—knickered over.

His body is laid out in the room where so recently his cheerful voice was heard, enveloped in the folds of that flag to whose honor he has sacrificed his life. His sword and cap repose on his breast, four sentinels pace their mournful round; flanking with fearful eyes at the cold grave features of the late beloved commander.

Washington to-day, unconscious of his loss, is left with two children to mourn an affectionate parent and a good father.

Col. Voshurg's remains will be forwarded to New York on a morning express train. The Marine Corps, the Seventh, Eighth, Twelfth and Sixty-ninth regiments, and his own regiment, will form the escort to his depot.

## THE REPORTED NAVAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE CHESAPEAKE.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861. There is no truth in the statement about the fight between the two steamers at the mouth of the Potomac. It was intended to be sent into Virginia, to incite the people to action.

## REPORTED RAISING OF THE BLOCKADE OF CHARLESTON.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861. The Charleston Courier of Friday says:—"For two days past our port has been without the presence of the Niagara, which has left for parts unknown. She has been reported off Savannah, in company with the brig Perry, and has been seen of North Edisto; but at present there is no certain information of her position. The Hunter has also been observed near this bar; but she too has left our port consequently without obstruction at this moment. Yesterday we had several arrivals from foreign ports; among them a cargo of molasses from Carpi, and a British brig, with pig iron and coal, from Glasgow. The latter has been taken up to return to the same port with a full cargo of sea island cotton, at the enormous freight of 2 1/2d. per pound. Such a freight has not been given in the memory of the oldest inhabitant."

Occasional arrests take place of persons charged with uttering treacherous sentiments or of being spies. In no case, however, as yet has punishment been inflicted. One of the former class has been released on taking the oath of allegiance.

Commodore Taitall, of the Confederate States navy, assigned to the command of the naval force at Charleston, has arrived there.

Southern papers falsely assert that "the correspondence of the Associated Press is largely controlled or dictated by Lincoln's views and preferences," while they themselves are constantly publishing the most foolish and extravagant stories against the government and those engaged in the administration of the affairs.

Captain Elzey, late of the federal army, has tendered his services to the Confederate States.

Although the sixty days allowed by the joint resolution of the late Congress during which to file remonstrances against the extension of McCormick's reaper patents have expired, the argument in the case before the Commissioner of Patents will not begin until the 1st of June.

## VIRGINIA BATTERIES SHELLED BY WAR VESSELS.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861. The United States transport Freeborn arrived this afternoon direct from Fort Monroe, bringing dispatches for the government. On the way up she captured two small vessels and wharfed them at the Washington navy yard.

A passenger on the Freeborn states that on Saturday two vessels from the fleet paid a visit to the vicinity of Sewall's Point, about four miles from the Fort, where the Virginians were erecting batteries, and threw sundry shells at the works, spoiling materially the architectural arrangements. Shots were fired at the vessel, but without effect. It is not known that anybody on shore was injured.

Commodore Pendergrast sent a flag of truce to Norfolk, with a view to make arrangements for the transportation of certain persons to the North, and received assurance that in this respect he should be accommodated.

A vessel was in waiting to take them to New York.

Captain Dahlgren, in command of the Washington Navy Yard, and who has frequent communication with Fort Washington, so pronounced it. At the threat of the British fleet, Allen and Major H. Kellogg, delegates from the Polish battalion of New York, had to-day an interview with the President, who informed them that several full regiments, more than the New York quota, had already been tendered to the government, and that there was a growing jealousy in other States because so many had been accepted from that State. The delegation then proposed to form in Washington a Polish regiment by volunteers from any or all the States, which was endorsed by a letter to that effect from the President to Secretary Cameron.

An interview with the latter was temporarily postponed, owing to a pressure of public business.

The steamer Magra has been withdrawn from the blockade force of Charleston for more important service. Another vessel will immediately take her place.

## CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WAR.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861.

A regiment of Canadians have volunteered to fight for the government and have been accepted. The President is highly pleased at the offer.

President Lincoln, Major Gen. Butler, and his aid, Capt. Hagarty, and Ex-Secretary Holt, were taken yesterday by Mr. Brady, the artist. It was a perfect triumph. Not a gun was fired.

A citizen of Massachusetts, who left here suddenly when the city was in danger of being attacked, and who stated at Hagerstown that he was bearer of dispatches to Governor Andrew, of Mass., and at Boston was announced as bearer of dispatches for Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, was barbarously seized on Saturday, and had his head shaved.

I should have stated in my dispatch on Saturday that the Eighth Massachusetts regiment, now at the Relay Junction, is also to accompany General Butler to Fort Monroe. Lieutenant Colonel Hinks, of the Eighth, has been elected Colonel, vice Colonel Munroe, resigned. Colonel Hinks has advanced rapidly. He has been attached to the military of Massachusetts for some years, which, like the military of most of the Northern States, has been too much of a fancy arrangement. Colonel Hinks' legitimate business lately has been that of a clerk in the State Department of Massachusetts.

Through the influence of Senator Wilson, Col. Hinks was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Army. He accepted, and was detailed to the work of drilling companies. Upon Colonel Munroe's resignation, Lieutenant Hinks was elected Colonel, bearing Major Ben. Perley's two votes. Major Perley was subsequently elected Major of the same regiment, and left his profession forthwith as correspondent of the Boston Journal from this city, and proceeded to the Relay Junction on Saturday, and reported himself for duty. The Major, of course, resigns his command of the "Savages," a rifle battalion in Newbury, Mass., which corps he had previously offered to the government. They would have been accepted but for the objection raised by Governor Andrew, who thought, as they were agriculturists, that they should not be admitted into the service until after the crops were in.

## THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE SOLDIERS' QUARTERS.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861. The Secretary of War has addressed a letter to Acting Surgeon General Wood, in which he says:—"This department has learned with deep regret that the sanitary condition of the various barracks in this city, occupied by the volunteers, now in the service of the government, and especially those in the rear of the City Hall, and at the Assembly Buildings, in which several of the Pennsylvania regiments are quartered, demands its attention. Representations of this character have been made to it by benevolent private individuals, and also by official authorities, including the Board of Health of Washington, whose business it is to guard the health of the city. The citizen soldiery, he added, who have so promptly and patriotically left their homes in response to the call of the President, and taken up arms in defence of the constitution and laws, and to vindicate and maintain American nationality, are entitled to the tenderest care and most assiduous attention of the government in every respect; and most especially it is the duty of the government to promote their health and comfort. You are therefore directed to immediately cause an inspection of these barracks to be made by one or more experienced, skillful and competent medical officers, with a view of ascertaining their actual sanitary condition; and instruct them to report to you, for the information of this department, such measures and regulations as will, in their opinion, not only speedily and effectually remove any evils which may be found to exist, but which will promote, protect and insure the health and comfort of these citizen soldiers."

The Secretary also addressed a letter to General Mansfield of a similar humane and patriotic tenor, directing him to cause the Fourth and Fifth regiments of Pennsylvania to be inspected.

## THE FIRST FIGHT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT SHIPS AND THE REBELS—THE REBEL BATTERY AT SEWALL'S POINT CANNONADED.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861. On Saturday afternoon, at Sewall's Point, Hampton Roads, at the mouth of the Elizabeth river, commenced the first offensive operation on the part of the United States in this war. I am not in possession of full particulars of the arrival of the United States steamer Thomas Freeborn, Commander James H. Ward, at this port this evening, with special despatches to the government. She brings up from Fort Monroe gentlemen who went down on Friday on the United States steamer Keystone State, on an especial visit to the fortress, among whom were Senators Wade, Chandler and Morrill, Mr. Nicolay, the President's Secretary, and Mr. Dimmock, of New York, all of whom witnessed with unfeigned comfort from the pier at Fort Monroe the cannonading of the unfinished Sewall's Point battery, in which the Freeborn played so important a part.

The battery in question is the eighth and last of the important works which defend the approaches to Norfolk, all now in the hands of the secessionists. The one nearest to Norfolk mounts eighteen guns; the second, Fort Norfolk, has twelve guns; next, Craney Island, mounts thirty guns, while below there are two others, all splendidly built, and mounted with the best heavy rifled and other ordnance from Norfolk Navy Yard, the last part of which was destroyed in the partial fire. The heaviest of Dahlgren's rifled ordnance were at that yard.

I am informed that the erection of the eighth work at Sewall's Point is of less importance as a defence than as an offensive work, operating on that part of the blockade which relates to James river. How important this will be seen from the fact that there are now twenty prizes, tobacco laden, lying under the guns of the blockading squadron, nearly all taken coming out of that river. Among them is one British bark, cargo valued at one hundred and sixty thousand dollars; also an American bark.

The United States steamer Star (late Monticello) at noon commenced cannonading the New York. She fired shell with ten inch guns, which burst with effect. Commander Ward's flotilla arrived from New York at two o'clock. Captain Ward, in the steamer Freeborn, was immediately sent to aid the Star. The Freeborn opened with thirty-two pound round shot; she fired fifteen rounds, and drove out the engineering or defending party, commanded by a mounted officer. She then hauled off and reported to the Commodore, who despatched the Freeborn immediately for Washington.

Hampton Roads is covered with the fleet and the prizes. The vessels are bringing in new prizes every hour. The best naval officers say that no inferior naval fleet can venture to approach Norfolk.

These eight works are within a space of six miles. Sewall's Point, the outermost, is six miles from Old Point. On the way up the Thomas Freeborn, at daylight on Sunday, fell in with the steamship Baltimore, belonging to and bound from Baltimore to Havana, out of her course in the Potomac river, near the mouth. The Freeborn mistook her for an enemy, and brought the guns to bear on her. She finally showed the American flag. She was boarded, and found to be groundless. Efforts were made to pull her off, resulting in parting both hawsers, and the Freeborn was obliged to leave her to reach Washington with despatch.

On Sunday afternoon the Freeborn, at Cedar Point, took a Virginia schooner as a prize. The craft was of no importance. In the evening got in thick weather, and laid to in the fog. A small vessel, the Isabella, attempted to pass, after being hailed repeatedly. At the threat of a shot the captain let her anchor. He reported that she was a fisherman, bound to Alexandria, and had two passengers for that place. By daylight it was found her hold was crowded with men, fifty being counted on deck at once. She was brought to Washington and anchored under the guns of the navy yard. The men said they had been offered thirteen dollars per month to serve in the secession army. The captain said they were fishermen of Baltimore, going home via Alexandria.

Lieutenant Cash, first officer of the Freeborn, ably managed the working of the vessel under her experienced commander.

I learn from the party arriving in the Freeborn, that the forces at Fort Monroe number three thousand, all in healthy condition and fine spirits. They were daily mounting new guns and practicing. Secession spies came often to the end of the bridge connecting the fort with the main land. The Thomas Freeborn also towed up two store vessels.

## ANIMATED APPEARANCE OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861. Washington continues full of patriotic citizens from all parts of the North, who have come here to offer men, money and ships to the government. The leading hotels are crowded with distinguished visitors. Such a crush of business has hardly ever known to the Washington bonanzas at this season of the year.

Charles H. Axtell, a prominent citizen of Eastern Virginia, announces himself a candidate for the Federal Congress from the Seventh district. He calls upon the Union men to open the polls in spite of the acts of usurpation of the Richmond Convention.

A delegation, headed by Colonel Julius Allen, is here to urge the acceptance of the Polish legion forming in New York.

General Patterson has been in consultation with General Scott nearly all day.

The Ohio regiments now stationed in Philadelphia are expected to arrive here in the course of the present week.

No less than a dozen United States Senators are now here representing the military interests of their respective States. Senator Chandler is very anxious to have the Michigan regiment ordered wherever the first battle is likely to be fought. The men are all eager for the fray. No better fighting material has been brought here.

No recruits came here better prepared for camp life than those from Connecticut. Their encampments are models of cleanliness, order and comfort.

Rain having again prevailed all day, most of the regiments dispersed with outdoor games and drills.

The robust appearance and gay uniforms of the Fourteenth (Brooklyn) regiment excite general admiration.

The Seventh (New York) regiment are in expectation of a flag from their lady friends in New York. A grand parade was announced to take place this afternoon on the occasion of the presentation, but it had to be postponed in consequence of the non-arrival of the flag.

## POSTAL FACILITIES WITH THE SOUTH CUT OFF.

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861. An order was issued to-day by Postmaster General Blair to cut off all the steamship mails on the coast, and all the steamboat mails on the rivers having any connection whatever with the rebel States. This service has amounted to about six hundred thousand dollars expense to the government. This sum, saved by Southern treachery, will be expended in power to punish the crime.

Secretary Chase submitted the oath of allegiance to the government to the editors of his department to-day. Sixteen men refused to take it in the State Auditor's office alone, and there were several in the other bureaus. This shows that the various statements made in this correspondence of late, that volunteers were still in the pay of the Government in the various departments, was not without foundation. There are more yet. Clean them out, gentlemen.

In to-day's Herald you mention Tennessee as part of General Butler's department, and express the opinion that South Carolina, instead of Tennessee, is probably embraced in his department. As I telegraphed to you on Saturday evening, Tennessee is not in his department. My Sunday Herald dispatch contains the fact that Eastern Virginia is the territory to be called the Department of Virginia.

PLANS OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FUTURE ACTION. WASHINGTON, May 20, 1861. The President has been much urged by leading men to order the occupancy of the principal towns in Eastern Virginia previous to the vote of the State upon the secession ordinance; but it is improbable that troops will advance upon Virginia until previous to the election. The government has its settled plan, upon which it will act, no matter what the result of the election will be. Alexandria may possibly be occupied, and from strategically, but not from political reasons.

The Secretary of the Treasury has been officially notified that attempts are being made to evade the blockade of the Lower Mississippi by shipping contraband articles per boat from St. Louis to points in Kentucky, and thence overland to Tennessee and further South. He is now endeavoring to put a stop to this illegal traffic. He is now advising as to the best means of doing this effectively, and will issue stringent orders at the earliest possible moment.

It is not true, as stated in the money article of one of your contemporaries, that considerable dissatisfaction exists in Wall street at the intention of the Secretary to issue Treasury notes at par for the nine millions loan. The proposition received the endorsement of the leading financiers of your city. The Secretary has their assurances that the loan will be readily taken on these terms.

The Post Office Department will ignore the mandate of the Montgomery Postmaster General, announcing his intention to assume the control of postal affairs in the Confederate States the 1st proximo. Although formal notice to this effect has been received, it will continue to make up and forward mails South until compelled to stop, either by force or the failure of postmasters, contractors and route agents to fulfill their obligations to the authorities here.

The attention of Secretary Cameron having been directed to the wretched and dangerous condition of some of the barracks occupied by Northern volunteers, he has promptly initiated measures for the speedy remedying of the evil. The Pennsylvania troops have especially suffered from this cause, owing to the inexperience and negligence of their commanding officers.

Many complaints are again being heard among a number of regiments on account of the unsatisfactory quality and quantity and irregular distribution of their rations. Many of the regimental quartermasters have proved themselves utterly unfit for their positions, and should be got out of the way without delay.

The party, consisting of Senator Chandler and Captain Ward, who commanded the Freeborn during the action against the secession fort, and others, saw nothing of the reported battery at the mouth of Aquia creek.

The Secretary of State has issued invitations for a second military fête, to take place to-morrow evening. His first reception of a week ago afforded great satisfaction to his numerous military guests, and it is likely that other members of the government will shortly imitate the graceful hospitalities of Governor Seward. The entertainment of to-morrow will comprise the elite of the military as well as of the political and social world.

## INTERESTING FROM MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.

HAGERSTOWN, May 20, 1861. Eight recruits left here during the past week to join the Confederate army at Harper's Ferry; twelve have gone from here during the same time to join the Pennsylvania Volunteers at Chambersburg.

I have ascertained by secessionists just returned from Harper's Ferry that two persons who died from small pox were buried on the Maryland side of the river yesterday.

Reports are to the effect that great dissatisfaction exists among the troops at Harper's Ferry on account of the existence of several parties. One favors the annexation of Virginia to the Confederate States; one the unconditional separate independence of Virginia; a third comprises the unconditional Union soldiers. Both of the last two classes refuse to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States.

The people of Sharpsburg village, thirteen miles south-east, on the road to Harper's Ferry, tore off the back top of a secessionist as it came through to-day. They swore no more soldiers for the Confederate Army should pass through their town. They maltreated the hack driver.

The Confederate troops have crossed the Potomac at Williamsport. They had nothing to eat from five o'clock yesterday until four this afternoon, and slept out in the rain all night, having no tents. The commander says volunteers will be admitted to-morrow. A report says some have deserted. Col. Allen commands. Fifteen hundred more arrived to-night, with eight pieces of artillery.

A reliable Union man has just arrived from Harper's Ferry. He arrived there from Winchester last night. He saw five hundred more troops arriving this morning, three hundred of whom were Indians, fully equipped. Heavy guns are thrown out regularly as far from Harper's Ferry as Oswatimie, Brown's school house, about two miles from the Ferry.

## REPORTS FROM CHAMBERSBURG.

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa., May 20, 1861. Seven hundred Virginia troops have arrived opposite Williamsport, on the Potomac river, twenty-six miles south of this point. It is believed here that they intend to make an irruption into the southern borders of this State. Affairs grow interesting here.

Several gentlemen have arrived here this morning from Hagerstown. They state that about seven hundred men have ascended the river from Harper's Ferry to a point opposite Williamsport, a town in Maryland of five hundred inhabitants.

A secessionist, named Abraham Lighter, in Williamsport, has two thousand barrels of flour, and it is believed that on account of the scarcity of provisions the troops seized this flour.

A gentleman who passed them on their way from Martinsburg, says there were Indians in the ranks, believed to be from Harper's Ferry, South Carolina.

Williamsport is twenty-eight miles from this place. The people of the whole Cumberland valley, particularly at this point, are very much excited, fearing an invasion by a strong corps of ten thousand men. They do not fear permanent conquest, but forage exhausting their resources. There are three thousand troops at this point.

Maryland has no troops to resist an advance of Virginians.

A Union man living in Maryland, who is vouched for as an entirely reliable, says he was at Harper's Ferry on Friday night, and saw six hundred Indians in one squad, but did not see more. He says small pox is known to exist among the troops at Harper's Ferry, but to what extent it prevails is not known. He believes the troops are for the present being sent over by Berkeley, Jefferson, Loudon, Frederick and Clarke counties, to carry them for secession on Thursday night. The legitimate voters of these counties are largely for the Union.

Passengers this afternoon from Hagerstown say fifteen hundred more secession troops are expected at Williamsport to-night. They were sent over the river for boards to construct tents, indicating the purpose of forming a regular encampment.

The flour stored above is being removed from Williamsport to Hagerstown rapidly.

## THE REPORTED MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO WILLIAMSPORT UNFOUNDED.

HAGERSTOWN, May 20, 1861. The Confederate troops have not yet crossed the Potomac to Williamsport. They have no tents, and very little, if any, provisions. The commander says that he has no intention to cross. This is reliable.

It is reported that 1,600 more men are expected to-night, with eight pieces of artillery.

## CAPTURE BY A PRIVATEER.

A dispatch to Friday's New Orleans Picayune, by the Helix News, says the privateer steamer Calhoun captured on the 15th the bark Ocean Eagle, Capt. Lane, from Rockland, Maine, with 2,344 cases of lace, consigned to Greely & Farwell.

## NEWS FROM THE CHESAPEAKE.

## OUR MILITARY CORRESPONDENCE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Old Point Comfort, Va., May 14, 1861.

Disembarkation of Troops—The Vermont Men—Surrender of the Troop—Arrangement of the Potomac—Movements of Other War Vessels—The Present Condition of Affairs—Life in the Fortress—False Rumors Concerning the Appearance of Smallpox—Health of the Garrison—Impregnable Front of the Fortress—State of the Weather—Exciting War Movements, &c.

When I closed my last letter to you, written on board the Alabama, the Vermont volunteers were being rapidly transferred from the steamer to the dock of the fort, in the little steaming Young America, known hereabouts for its activity in hauling up vessels passing up and down the Roads, as the Young Cumberland. At one o'clock all the troops were safely disembarked, and the stores, munitions of war, &c., quickly sent ashore, and at an early hour on Tuesday morning the Alabama departed for New York.

The troops from Vermont were in good health and fine spirits, and ready for any duty which they may be called upon to perform. But two or three cases are in hospital and those are suffering from a slight attack of the measles. As there were no barracks for more troops, the Vermonters pitched their tents in "the place of arms," near the water bathing, in a salubrious and delightful position, and are now leading a regular camp life. After a day's rest they will be called upon to take their turn in standing guard and sentry, and enter into the regular routine of soldiers' life in a fort.

The steamer Pembroke, from Boston, arrived on Monday, with detachments of the Massachusetts Third regiment, and a large quantity of stores for the two Massachusetts regiments stationed at this point. She will be armed with two Dahlgren guns, swung on pivots, fore and aft. She returns to Boston in a day or two, and will be more heavily armed, and employed by the State as a coast guard.

The Minnesota, flagship, Commodore Stringham, is here and anchored off the fortress. I believe she will relieve the Cumberland, which will go North for repairs. She is a magnificent specimen of marine architecture, and with her double row of heavy Dahlgren guns, which are run out and ready for action, presents a formidable appearance.

The Monticello, or Star, as it is now called—one of the gunboats of the blockading squadron—is very actively engaged in the bay in bringing to and overhauling vessels of every character. She has already, with the aid of the Harriet Lane and the Young Cumberland, taken quite a fleet of schooners, and a number of smaller craft. The blockade is very stringent, and no vessel can pass this fort without being brought to by a shot from the Cumberland or the Harriet Lane.

The Harriet Lane, Captain Fanning, is stationed up the Roads, off the James river, and is performing good service. She sent down a brig this morning, which was taken by the Harriet Lane, and the Young Cumberland, and a fleet of schooners, and a number of smaller craft. The blockade is very stringent, and no vessel can pass this fort without being brought to by a shot from the Cumberland or the Harriet Lane.

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